



THE MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION

MGA MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FEEDBACK REGARDING COVID-19 VACCINE AND MG

UPDATED 5/25/2021

Dear Community Members of the MGA,

On May 16th, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provided updated guidelines regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. The MGA Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) believes the benefits of getting the COVID-19 vaccine outweigh the risks.

Clinical trials and experience in the United States thus far have shown COVID-19 vaccines to be very highly effective in preventing severe forms or deadly forms of COVID. The same vaccines are also effective in preventing milder forms of the disease. Additionally, 287 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the United States as of 5/25/2021, with an overall record of safety. Considering this information, the MGA MAC believes the benefits of a COVID-19 vaccination in general, vastly outweigh what has been a track record of very limited risk to date.

A FEW THINGS TO NOTE

- Many MG patients take immunosuppressant drugs as a form of treatment. Immunosuppressants can weaken the immune system, and there is a concern these drugs can reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine. The MGA MAC advises getting vaccinated while on lower doses of immunosuppressants when possible. If not possible, the MAC still recommends immunization. Additionally, the MGA MAC encourages those taking immunosuppressants to continue masking, social distancing, and hand washing.
- The MGA MAC believes the benefits of getting the COVID-19 vaccine outweigh the risks. Should you have personal concerns, drug allergies, other severe allergies, or conditions that concern you, the MGA MAC asks that you please consult your doctor for a detailed risk-and-benefit discussion before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

*This update is not to be used as a substitute for medical advice. The MGA MAC will continue to monitor CDC updates and will make recommendations accordingly.

*The medical advisory committee of the MGA is committed to supporting patients with myasthenia gravis.
The following members of the committee have reviewed and approved this document:*

Dr. Richard Barohn, Dr. Mazen Dimachkie, Dr. Constantine Farmakidis, Dr. Vernita Hairston, and Dr. Mamatha Pasnoor